

# INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRO- DUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1 TO OCTOBER 31, 1919 (NO. 60; NOS. 47865 TO 48426).

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## INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

There are many experimenters who appear not to understand the problem of plant introduction and who, after applying for interesting plants which they see described and finding none left for distribution, since others who applied previously had received them, become discouraged. It should be pointed out that obtaining plants from out-of-the-way parts of the world is a very different thing from the purchase of plants from a nursery. We may through a traveler, a transient correspondent, or one of our own explorers get a small quantity of seed of a rare tree, for example. We often can not get more seed of this species, even by going to very great expense, as it may be found in some out-of-the-way place and may fruit very infrequently. If it can be grown only from seed and the trees do not bear until they are 8 or 10 years old, we simply can not supply more than the number of plants grown from the original introduced seeds until, years later, either the seedlings fruit in this country or a rare opportunity occurs whereby we may obtain it again from its foreign source. The most constructively helpful experimenters are those who appreciate these conditions and who, when they can not get what they want, are glad to test other introductions which we can send them.

This sixtieth inventory has a number of noteworthy new introductions.

Mr. Maiden, of Sydney, sends in a "native cherry" tree (*Exocarpus cupressiformis*, No. 47866) which produces fruit morphologically similar to the cashew nut and the raisin tree, the pedicel below the seed instead of the parts surrounding it being enlarged.

Dr. da Costa sends from Para the pupunha palm (*Guilielma speciosa*, No. 47868) which apparently resembles the pejibaye of Costa Rica, producing a fruit which is boiled and eaten like potatoes. These species of *Guilielma* deserve especial study by tropical horticulturists.